

10-4-2012

# The Good 5 Cent Cigar (10/4/2012)

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# The Good 5¢ Cigar

THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1971

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Issue 15

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Thursday  
October 4, 2012

## Professor discusses novels for Diversity Week event

BY AUDREY O'NEIL  
News Reporter

An instructor at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography led a book discussion yesterday for Diversity Week.

Scientific writing instructor Padma Venkatraman discussed her two published novels, "Climbing the Stairs," and "Island's End."

Venkatraman's first novel, "Climbing the Stairs," was published in 2008 and was based on her mother growing up as a young woman in India in 1942. The title of the novel represents her mother's struggle.

"In the house that she lived, the women had to live downstairs and men lived upstairs, and she was not allowed to climb the stairs to go upstairs and the library was upstairs. All she wanted to do was go to the library and read books," Venkatraman said. "And that was a big deal, so to me, that was fascinating, and that period of history is really amazing



Melissa Lichtman | Cigar

**University of Rhode Island professor and acclaimed author, Padma Venkatraman, discusses her new book, Islands End, at a diversity week event**

because Mahatma Gandhi and Hitler, both of them lived at the same time. So the major contrast of violence and non-violence was present in the world."

Although Venkatraman did use the stories from her mother's own personal experience and her family heritage as inspiration, she also thoroughly researched during that time period and conducted many

interviews with people who lived in that generation.

"Island's End," Venkatraman's second novel, takes place in the remote Andaman Islands, located near the coast of Thailand, but controlled by India. Venkatraman lived on the islands for a year while working in the field of oceanography.

Venkatraman has won the

South Asia Book Award from the South Asian National Outreach Consortium and the Paterson Prize from the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College for "Island's End."

Venkatraman also has a third novel that is soon to be published, "A Time to Dance," which is a young adult novel based on an experience that inspired her.

"It was based on a young woman that I knew who was a dancer, a classical Indian dancer, and she had a debilitating accident, and they told her she would not be able to walk again, and she danced after," Venkatraman said. "And to me that was so fantastic and just this woman with so much courage. It is not based on her life story; it was inspired by that. It's about both the physical recovery and spiritual recovery and all of these things that she needs to overcome."

Venkatraman has always enjoyed writing and encourages

Continued on page 2

## Student Senate approves new organization, has absentee ballots

BY SHAWN SAIYA  
Managing Editor

The University of Rhode Island Student Senate approved a new student organization at its meeting last night.

Face AIDS, a global organization that raises money to help the global fight against AIDS, was overwhelmingly approved by the senate.

Face AIDS chapter president Shayla Minter said the group currently has about 50 members and has already helped put on a few events. Minter added that Face AIDS has about 200 chapters nationally, and they benefit Partners In Health, a global AIDS charity with 70 clinics in 10 countries around the world. Minter said that all money raised by Face AIDS is matched by private donations.

She explained that Face AIDS has already helped put on an AIDS Walk, which raised \$2,000 for a separate AIDS charity. Face AIDS is also planning to do a "condom fashion show" in the spring. Minter said Face AIDS is teaming up with a fashion merchandiser and a condom supplier to design wardrobes made completely out of condoms.

Other events on the horizon for Face AIDS include "Drag Queen Bingo" held in conjunction with another organization in Warwick. Face AIDS will also have a booth set up with Slow Food URI this Tuesday to try and gain support for the group.

In other news:

-The Student Senate has absentee ballots available in its office in the Memorial Union for students who are not going home to vote. Ballots for each of the six New England states are available in the office and other state ballots can be printed out in the office.

-Orientation for the newly elected senators will take place on Oct. 9 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

## Senior reflects on summer scientific study with renowned URI field expert at Center for Vector-Borne Diseases

BY JULIE DAWSON  
Contributing News Reporter

Whether you are strolling through a park or taking a hike in the woods, lurking on blades of grass or between the hairs of your pet lie blood-sucking pests that many Rhode Islanders fear during the summer, also known as ticks.

University of Rhode Island senior Adam Pepler, a clinical laboratory science major, has become an expert on about spider-like arachnids after interning at the Center for Vector-Borne Diseases (CVBD) this summer, where he worked closely with one of the most well-renowned experts in this field, URI's very own Dr. Thomas Mather, known as the "Tick Guy" within his department of Plant Science and Entomology.

"I knew it would be a great opportunity to participate in a legitimate scientific study," Pepler, speaking about his decision to intern at the CVBD, said.

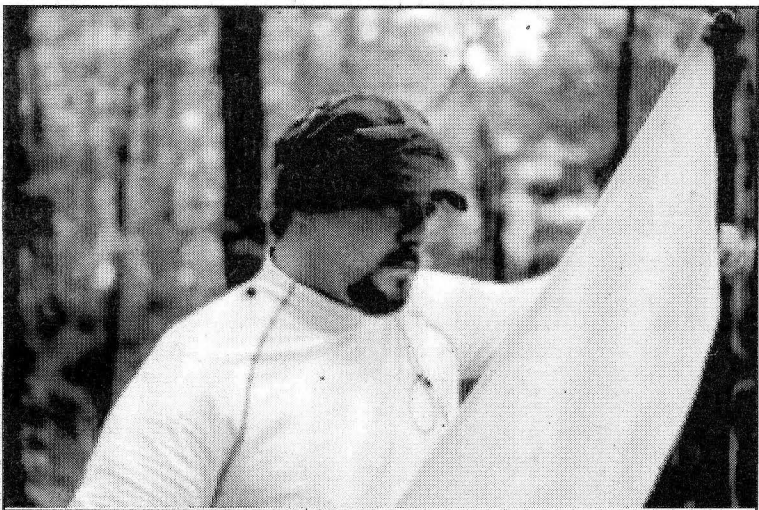


Photo courtesy of Adam Pepler

**Senior clinical laboratory science major Adam Pepler during his internship.**

Pepler added that the internship opportunity presented itself to him when Brienne Neptin, the URI Coastal Fellows program coordinator, spoke in one of his classes about several summer opportunities the program had to offer.

"There were a number of different fellowships to choose

from, but as soon as I saw Dr. Mather's program, I applied, and was thrilled when I made it through the interview process and was offered a fellowship," Pepler said.

Along with two other research assistants, Pepler said they traveled to more than 60 sites in Rhode Island in June, and

again in July, to survey and collect deer ticks in the nymph and adult stages of life. They used these collections for DNA lab experiments, testing if the ticks were infected with *Borrelia Miyamotoi*, a flu-like infection that can cause symptoms similar to Lyme disease and relapsing fever (high fever).

"This entire summer has been an awesome time," Pepler said. "I have learned more from the great people at the CVBD than I could ever have imagined."

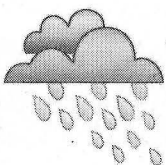
Pepler said his summer experience sparked his curiosity for science and will continue to advance his learning in the field. He added that based on this experience, he advises students to keep an open mind.

"No one can really know where things will lead them until they get there," Pepler said. "The question I like to ask myself is, in the end, what do ya got to lose, or more importantly, to gain?"

The Good 5-Cent Cigar

Today's forecast  
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Rain, rain, go  
away...



### Nickel Brief:

Check out tomorrow's issue to learn about a URI class exclusively studying the 2012 election.

Thinking about buying  
Lupe Fiasco's new  
album?

See page 2.



## CAMPUS

# Lupe Fiasco's new album has great lyrics, dynamic theme

BY ALEX MCDEVITT  
Contributing Entertainment Writer

Ever since the rise and fall of the classic flow and style of hip-hop, arguably after the death of certain members and the corporate route many rappers seem to follow, I haven't really found one particular artist to attach myself to for too long. Once in blue moon, there comes an artist that gets all of the sides of what makes hip-hop so great, but often they can only get a few good songs here and there before they've completely become mainstream. Usually, I try to stay away from mainstream hip-hop, mostly for my own good.

In the last few years, I've put my faith into one particular artist, one that I actually was able to see last year at the Ryan Center. Whether spewing anti-war statements on Fox News, or rallying his followers to go out and impact the election, Lupe Fiasco has done it all. While he has been both praised and criticized for his messages against the government and local law enforcement, his music career has been nothing short of spectacular.

Storming the charts in 2006, *Food & Liquor* took everyone by surprise, as it revealed the next great mixer of lyrics and original sounds. I personally loved his ties to jazz what true hip-hop was about. Unfiltered, uncut and right from the heart of the Chicago streets, it was an instant success.

The same can't be said for his next two albums. 2008's *The Cool* was largely confusing for a lot of his older fan base, a huge departure from the jazzy style, but still garnered positive responses from critics and sales alike. Two years later, the most popular Lupe album (maybe for the best, or for the worst) surfaced with *Lasers*. Largely split between fans and music reviewers, I really can't decide how I feel about it almost two years later. I appreciate half of the songs, but, collectively, compared to everything Lupe had done in the past, it was a sure let-down. Unlike most of the critics, I waited to see what Lupe was brewing next.

What we now have, released last week, is number two in Fiasco's *Food & Liquor* trilogy. Where I felt as though studio interference in *Lasers* might have left the classic sound of underground rhythm and flow behind, it is

surely resurrected here. In the sense of combining *Part 1* and *Cool*, Fiasco has made perhaps his second-best outing since his debut album. With the exception of a few excerpts here and there, *Food & Liquor II: The Great American Rap Album Pt. 1* is nothing short of a revelation for the 30-year-old, becoming more of a voice for the people that he clearly supports, and more importantly, a voice against his old record company: Atlantic Records.

Whereas I felt *Lasers* was the expansion of the brand called Lupe Fiasco, *F&L II* offers more of what his old fan base was missing from the last two albums. We get great rants in songs like "Battle Scars" and "Bad B\*tch," and somber pieces, including "Put 'Em Up" and "Strange Fruition." Above everything else, this album sounds less censored, and more explicit than *Lasers* ever did. Where I can put the fault on Atlantic, or Lupe's "everyone gets one" ideal, this is certainly a step in the right direction.

By far, the best song of the album is "Around My Way/Freedom Ain't Free," going off of what America seems to be heading towards. Taking away a sample from one of my favorite '90s songs, "They Reminisce Over You (T.R.O.Y)" by Pete Rock and C.L. Smooth, Lupe really seems focused with this defamation of everyone and anyone who stands in his way. I personally love the way he compares the slums in many American cities to the culture race currently infusing all our people (rich or poor, successful or broken). While most modern artists seem to stray away from this, Lupe attacks it head-on.

What I get out of this album best is how Lupe, in a way, got back to his roots without selling himself too short of fans' expectations or setting himself up for producers to change his style. In a way, this is an idea for what the future of Lupe Fiasco is all about—lyrics come before the beats. This is exactly the case when Lupe hits us with poetic monologues of what the real world, at least to him, is like. Exploited or not, *Food & Liquor II* paints a very clear picture in everyone's mind that Fiasco is long from dropping off the radar of modern hip-hop. And, to an extent, this might be the best he's been in years.

## Professor

From page 1

others to follow their passion for writing.

"If you love writing, then just write. And ultimately I don't think writing can be taught; it's a matter of you doing it," Venkatraman said. "Publication may or may not happen, but that does not mean you are not a valid writer. If you love it, you write it."

## Movies

From page 3

series of surprises, twists and even utter confusion at times in a way that reminds them what of the theme of Fantastic Fest is all about.

After a successful week of film viewings and celebrations, many are already looking forward to next year. The films featured at the 2012 Fantastic Fest have caught the attention of audiences beyond the small population that were in attendance in Austin, Texas. Many are now waiting for their opportunity to see these new films for themselves. As these films capture audiences everywhere, tickets are already being sold for the 2013 Fantastic Fest. Eager fans and patrons are already preparing themselves for the fun events and impactful films they will see next year.

Have a story idea? Send it to:  
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Mercy Brown is buried in Rhode Island. Where's Mercy this Halloween?

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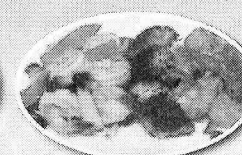
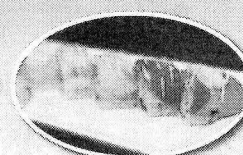
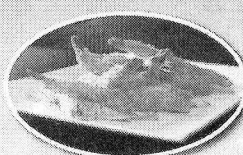
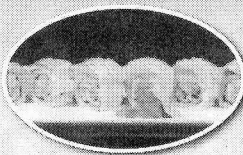
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## Compelling movies from annual Fantastic Fest capture attention of film enthusiasts

BY MELISSA LICHTMAN  
Contributing Entertainment Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 27, film enthusiasts reflected back on the week as one of the most anticipated film festivals of the year came to an end at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema in Austin, Texas.

"Fantastic Fest," which was held from Sept. 20 through 27, is an annual film festival that has been a highlight for many passionate fans since it began in 2005. The festival's dedication to specific genres, such as horror, action, sci-fi, and fantasy, allows fans and the film industry to come together in celebration of the films they all love. Fantastic Fest offers an avenue of expression for those who are passionate about these genres of film. Between the film screenings and the themed parties, this film festival has become a cultural staple for many. Fans gather excitedly for premieres of anticipated feature films as well as screenings of lesser-known short films that offer something new.

Any fans that experienced Fantastic Fest did more than just watch the gripping films that were featured. On a nightly basis, themed happy hour was

held, in addition to many events in appreciation of the films. Events held included activities such as trivia, awards and many parties that expressed the themes of the films. A party was held almost every night and featured themes that inspired the guests to dress in costumes and express their passion for these horror or fantasy-filled films. This film festival turned Austin into a mecca filled with celebration and exciting screenings for anyone passionate about these films.

Viewers gathered throughout the week to bond over their common passion and to welcome the premiere of many films. The week began with the worldwide premiere of Tim Burton's "Frankenweenie." This 3-D animation, featuring an extensive cast of well-known Hollywood actors, was one of the more commonly known films being presented at the festival. Burton's creativity led to an original film that told a heartwarming story of a boy who conducted an experiment to bring his dog back to life in a Frankenstein-like way. After this early viewing, many more fans, outside of the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, are awaiting the official release of the film, which is set to

be on Oct. 5. "Frankenweenie" was the start to a week that would be filled with numerous premieres and impressive demonstrations of what the action, fantasy, sci-fi and horror genres have to offer their audiences.

In addition to the numerous feature films shown, the festival also featured many short films. These films were all viewed based on their categories: Fantastic Shorts, Drawn and Quartered: Animated Fantastic Fest Shorts, and Short Fuse: Severe Fantastic Fest Shorts. Each category of shorts was given two time blocks of two hours each to fit in the many films. Many of the short films writers, directors, and producers attended the festival to see their work played in the famous screen of the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. The shorts offered a new perspective on the genres that had been depicted through the full-length films that were also being featured.

One of the more talked about films that premiered during the week was the Dutch film "Blackout," directed by Arne Toonen. In the film, the main character, Jos, played by Dutch actor Raymond Thiry, wakes up

the day before his wedding next to the dead body of a man he does not recognize. With no memory of what happened or how this man died, Jos finds that he is now involved with two gang members blaming him for stealing their drugs. Jos tries to figure out the truth before his wedding audiences are pushed to the edge of their seats in anticipation and suspense. This was one of the many films bursting with action that stuck with audiences after the final credits rolled.

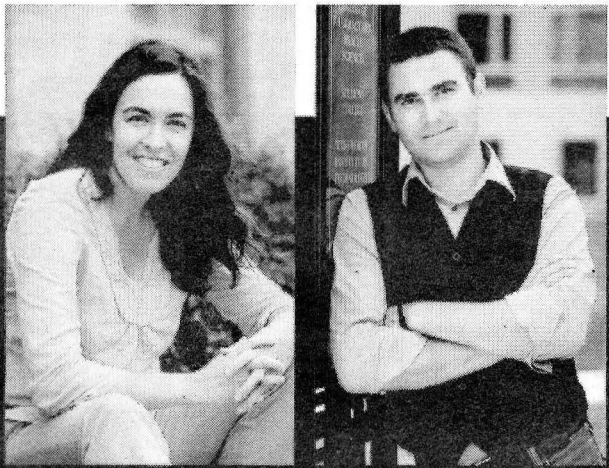
Another film that seemed to catch the audience's attention upon its first showing in the U.S. was the creatively original, "Holy Motors," directed by Leos Carax. The French director put together a film that encompassed a wide range of genres in a chaotic way that kept audiences' eyes glued to the screen. The leading character in this film, played by Denis Lavant, changes his identity and appearance multiple times, allowing for a dynamic flow of events. The film encompasses aspects of action, fantasy, science fiction and even music all in under two hours. Audiences of this movie are met with a

Continued on page 2

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# Rhody SPORTS



## Men's golf team finishes in middle of pack at MacDonald Cup tournament

BY BRANDON MAXWELL  
Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men's golf team finished seventh out of 15 teams this past weekend in the MacDonald Cup in South Kent, Conn.

Throughout the 36-hole tournament, the Rams posted a score of 578. The Rams and the tournament winning home team, the Yale University Bulldogs, were only separated by seven strokes.

The Rams were once again led by senior Branden Chicorka. The senior finished in a tie for seventh place, accumulating a stroke count of 140. Chicorka missed out on the best individual score to University of Notre Dame's Niall Platt by just two strokes. Platt opened the cup with a two-under, 68, before ending with an even par 70 on Sunday.

Four individuals tied for second place with a 139.

Out of the three tournaments this season, Chicorka has finished with one of the best eight individual scores each time.

Sophomore newcomer Mat Goldman had the best tournament of his career. He finished 39th with an overall score of 148.

"The team got a great tournament out of newcomer Mat Goldman, and Branden Chicorka showed again why he is considered one of the best collegiate golfers in New England," Rhode Island coach Gregg Burke said.

Junior Andrew Fiorenzano and freshman Nick Fairweather had strong showings as well, finishing in a tie for 29th place with a score of 145. Fiorenzano posted an even-par 70 to finish the tournament. The 70 marked his lowest stroke count of the

season. Fairweather finished with his finest collegiate tournament result after posting a second round of 74. The newcomer carded a one-over par 71, which is his lowest round as a collegiate golfer. Junior Jared Adams got off to a rocky start on Saturday with a 78, but settled down on Sunday with a 75 adding up to a total of 153 and a 63rd place finish.

As a team, the Rams finished with 287 on Sunday, marking their lowest team score for a single round of the season. Fourteen strokes separated the top seven teams.

"We played very well for a long time today and had it a two under with six holes to par," Burke said. "We are very close to being very good."

The Rams next outing will be at the Ellington Ridge Golf Club in Ellington, Conn. to compete in the Connecticut Cup on Monday and Tuesday.

## Men's soccer team falls to Fairfield University

BY COLIN HOWARTH  
Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men's soccer team fell short against Fairfield University this past Saturday, losing 2-0.

The loss dropped the Rams to 1-6-2 on the season.

After a scoreless first half, Jordan Ayris scored twice for Fairfield to give the Stags a lead they would hold for the rest of the game. The first goal came in the 51st minute when Ayris was able to strike the ball by Rhode Island freshman keeper Thomas Spenser. Ayris scored his second goal in the 74th minute by finishing a rebound.

"We had a good game plan and executed it well in the first half," Rhode Island coach John O'Connor said. "We made some individual mistakes in the second half which good teams will punish you for in the end. We need to continue to be switched on for 90 minutes, as this will give us our best chance."

Fairfield outshot the Rams 17-6, including a 9-6 advantage in shots on goal. Andy Hess and Matt Sykes led Rhode Island with two shots on goal each while Ayris had a game-high four shots for Fairfield.

"We have already forgotten about Saturday and have gotten back to work in preparation for UMass and the A-10 season," O'Connor said. "We've been through disappointment this season already and because of this we can move on and live in

the present."

At this point last year, Rhode Island was 3-6 heading into Atlantic-10 play where they picked it up and went 4-4-1 in league to finish the season.

"We play excellent competition in the non-conference season to prepare us for A-10 play," O'Connor said. "Last year, we struggled to score goals. This year, we are scoring, but also giving up goals at crucial times so we are chasing a lot of games."

Senior defenseman Rob Gargaro was able to continue his streak of 65 consecutive starts. In 2009, as a freshman, he started in all 20 matches and has done the same every year since.

"He doesn't think much about it and to be honest we don't keep track," O'Connor said. "All we notice is that he is out there day in and day out giving 100 percent effort. That is more valuable to the team than anything. It is a great accomplishment and a testimony to the consistency he shows through his career. Not many URI players can say the same."

URI's next game will be at home against University of Massachusetts at 7 p.m. on Saturday. UMass is 3-3-2 heading into the game.

"Our expectations always have been to qualify for and win the A-10 championship," O'Connor said. "Nothing less than that is acceptable to the boys. We start the A-10 season this weekend, and, as we have said, these are the ones that really count."

## Embarrassing season for Boston Red Sox finally comes to close

BY TIM LIMA  
Staff Sports Reporter

Have Red Sox fans experienced as disappointing of a season as they have with the 2012 Red Sox?

It certainly is tough to think of one. It's finally over Sox fans; it's finally over.

We have dealt with disappointments such as Grady Little staying with Pedro Martinez in 2003, but haven't experienced a full letdown as we have this year – in my generation, at least. When was the last time Fenway was half-empty? When was the last time a premiere organization celebrated the eight-year anniversary of a championship team to fill seats, pretending that it is some significant milestone?

Things should change soon though.

As of this writing, the Red Sox have an overall record of 69-92, landing them in last place in the American League East. Don't count on them reaching 70 wins though as the New York Yankees will have a packed house of fanatics tonight with clinching the division on their minds. Also as of this writing Bobby Valentine is the manager of the Red Sox. Things will soon

change:

This is most certainly not a team that should find itself 23 games under .500. This isn't a team that should find itself in last place in a division with Toronto and Baltimore. Simply put, the team that spends as much money as the Red Sox do should not be selling bleacher seats for prices cheaper than a loaf of bread.

In order to return to their winning ways, things must change. This weekend, we will know how serious of a change the Red Sox bigwigs, like John Henry and Larry Lucchino, have in mind. Last year, Terry Francona was fired and later blasted in the media – the attempt of making a hometown hero a scapegoat for the catastrophic collapse that was last September. In a year that was far worse than last, what negative stories will we hear come out of Fenway following Valentine's likely departure? If the Sox have their minds set on the future, they must not look to their past, and that starts by putting Valentine in the rear view mirror.

The main focus of the club must also be transformed. For 86 years, the Red Sox were a tier below the Chicago Cubs

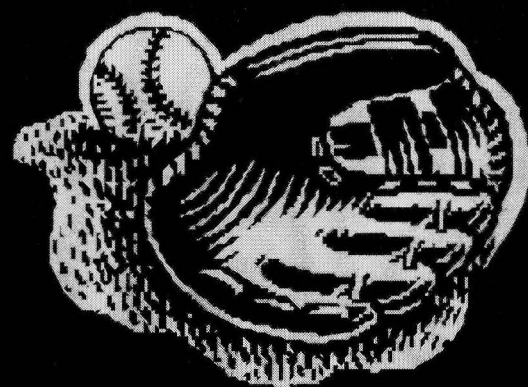
for the longest drought without the Commissioner's Trophy in its possession. During this time, the competition was first priority. When the Red Sox fell in the postseason, you could feel the life get sucked out of New England as it tallied another winless year to its count. When Little stayed with Pedro, there was genuine outrage. When Aaron Boone sent a Tim Wakefield knuckleball out of Yankee Stadium to end Boston's hopes in 2003, he became public enemy number one in New England and when Curt Schilling took the mound with a bleeding ankle, he became a living legend.

Oh, how things have changed. Sox fans around the world are ordering bricks and yearbooks chronicling the 100-year anniversary of the park rather than watching the team. Going to Fenway Park has the feel of visiting a museum rather than a ballpark.

The worst part? Red Sox management is fine with it for the money continues to roll in.

Things must change, and they will, beginning tomorrow. Have faith Sox fans; soon we will be able to sing about how good times never seemed so good... and mean it.

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